



**DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**  
**Office of Inspector General**  
**Washington DC 20420**

May 24, 2016

VIA Email

Matt Novak

novak@gizmodo.com

Re: Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request No. 16-00258-FOIA

Dear Mr. Novak:

This decision responds to your request for the following: "All emails sent and received by Deputy Inspector General Linda A. Halliday that include the search term 'Jon Stewart' or 'Daily Show' from January 2009 to present."

Following review of the responsive documents and consideration of the controlling FOIA provisions, we decided to grant your request in part.

The FOIA directs federal agencies to publicly disclose information unless the information is protected by any of the nine statutory exemptions. We withheld information pursuant to FOIA Exemption 6, which permits a federal agency to withhold from release all information which, if disclosed, would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of an individual's personal privacy. 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6). In the interest of protecting certain involved subjects from any unwarranted invasion of their privacy, we have withheld particular information. We do not find a public interest that outweighs the privacy interests we seek to protect.

You may appeal this decision regarding the release of information within 60 calendar days of the date of this determination by submitting a signed, written statement by mail, fax, or email. You may submit your appeal by using either of the following addresses or fax number:

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Office of Inspector General  
Office of the Counselor (50C)  
810 Vermont Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20420  
VAOIGFOIA-Appeals@va.gov  
(Fax) 202.495.5859

The appeal should include:


1. The name of the FOIA Officer

2. The date of the determination, if any
3. The precise subject matter of the appeal

If you choose to appeal only a portion of the determination, you must specify which part of the determination you are appealing.

The appeal should include a copy of the request and VA's response, if any. The appeal should be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Darryl Joe", written over a horizontal line.

Darryl Joe  
Chief, Release of Information Office

## **Halliday, Linda (OIG)**

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**From:** Abe, Gary (SES) (OIG)  
**Sent:** Friday, September 06, 2013 8:44 AM  
**To:** Halliday, Linda (SES) (OIG); Wokeck, Dennis (OIG)  
**Subject:** Jon Stewart

Maybe we should start our conference with a little humor?

**6.1 - Comedy Central (Video): The Daily Show with Jon Stewart** (5 Sep, 450.5k broadcast viewers/day; New York, NY)

In 3:45 minute video quoted the President's DAV speech saying the Backlog has decreased 20%. He then reported on deaths in Pittsburgh, Buffalo, and Atlanta VA facilities, and said that these hospital managers received bonuses. He said going to a VA facility shouldn't require more courage than storming the beaches of Normandy.

[Hyperlink to Above Video](#)

*Gary K. Abe*

Deputy Assistant Inspector General  
Office of Audits and Evaluations (52A)  
Office of Inspector General  
Department of Veterans Affairs

Telephone: (202) 461-4543

(b)(5)

## Halliday, Linda (OIG)

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**From:** Halliday, Linda (SES) (OIG)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 11, 2014 12:37 PM  
**To:** (b)(6)  
**Subject:** (b)(6)

Goggle Jon Stewart shows how badly dated the VA's computers Are

Huffington Post 6/11/14 4:40pm

Watch the full video

## Halliday, Linda (OIG)

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**From:** Reinkemeyer, Larry (OIG)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 02, 2014 10:37 AM  
**To:** Halliday, Linda (OIG)  
**Cc:** Engelen, David (OIG); Prabhakar, Pete (OIG)  
**Subject:** Outline: Auditing Through The Challenges of Political Pressure & Media Hype

My thoughts

- I. Players/Examples
  - Congress, media, whistleblowers, public
  - Phoenix. IRS, GSA, Secret Service
  - Social media
- II. Media Hype
  - Jon Stewart clip
  - Google exercise
- III. Lessons Learned (from Phoenix)
  - A. Communication
    - Congress
    - Congressional liaison
    - Taskings/expectations
    - Milestones
    - Within agency (internal communication)
    - Multi-discipline nuances
    - Client relationship (appearance of independence)
  - B. Policies & Procedures
    - Workplace control (minimizing distractions not related to the audit)
    - Whistleblowers
    - Initial assessment of environment
    - Follow policies & established industry practices
    - "Non-related" topics; topics outside original audit focus (sexual harassment, removal of management)
  - C. Pace of Operations
    - Everyday changes
    - Flexibility in the audit program
    - Conclusions made in press and other media
- IV. Conclusion
  - A. All about ethics & independence
  - B. Focus on industry practices
  - C. Just the facts
  - D. Speak truth to the power
  - E. Be prepared for backlash

## **Halliday, Linda (OIG)**

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**From:** Halliday, Linda (OIG)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 02, 2014 10:52 AM  
**To:** Prabhakar, Pete (OIG)  
**Subject:** FW: Outline: Auditing Through The Challenges of Political Pressure & Media Hype

Pete

Please put this outline in a powerpoint.

Can we get the Jon Stewart clip a clean version of the nighttime hearing...

Lin

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**From:** Reinkemeyer, Larry (OIG)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 02, 2014 10:37 AM  
**To:** Halliday, Linda (OIG)  
**Cc:** Engelen, David (OIG); Prabhakar, Pete (OIG)  
**Subject:** Outline: Auditing Through The Challenges of Political Pressure & Media Hype

My thoughts

- I. Players/Examples
  - Congress, media, whistleblowers, public
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    - Initial assessment of environment
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    - "Non-related" topics; topics outside original audit focus (sexual harassment, removal of management)

**C. Pace of Operations**

- Everyday changes
- Flexibility in the audit program
- Conclusions made in press and other media

**IV. Conclusion**

- A. All about ethics & independence
- B. Focus on industry practices
- C. Just the facts
- D. Speak truth to the power
- E. Be prepared for backlash

**Halliday, Linda (OIG)**

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**From:** Moffett, Joanne (OIG)  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 8:34 AM  
**To:** VACO 50 Senior Staff  
**Subject:** Fw: [EXTERNAL] 17 January Veterans Affairs Media Summary and News Clips  
**Attachments:** 140117\_Veterans Affairs Media Summary and News Clips.docx; 140117\_Veterans Affairs Media Summary and News Clips.pdf

Cathy- p.29 article says Rep. Coffman has asked the Secretary for unredacted copy of Columbia,MO, AIB and whether anyone has been held accountable.

P. 21 has videos of Secretary Gates' comments about VA on Jon Stewart's show.

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**From:** VA Media Analysis [<mailto:VAMediaAnalysis@barbaricum.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, January 17, 2014 05:30 AM  
**To:** VA OPIA Stand-Up Distribution List  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@barbaricum.com>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@barbaricum.com>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] 17 January Veterans Affairs Media Summary and News Clips

Good morning,

Please find the attached Veterans Affairs Media Summary and News Clips.

BARBARICUM

## Halliday, Linda (OIG)

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**From:** Abe, Gary (OIG)  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2015 9:39 AM  
**To:** Halliday, Linda (OIG); Moffett, Joanne (OIG)  
**Subject:** FW: Project Manager Selections - Bay Pines Benefits Inspection Division

Nora did not send this to you or me. This answers your question about the selection of the new AMs at Bay Pines.

*Gary H. Abe*

Deputy Assistant Inspector General  
Office of Audits and Evaluations (52A)  
Office of Inspector General  
Department of Veterans Affairs

Telephone: (202) 461-4543

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Stokes, Nora D. (OIG) <[Nora.Stokes@va.gov](mailto:Nora.Stokes@va.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 3, 2015 4:43 PM  
**To:** OIG 50 All Field Staff  
**Subject:** Project Manager Selections - Bay Pines Benefits Inspection Division

I am pleased to announce the selection of two Project Managers for the Bay Pines Benefits Inspection Division (52BP). Please join me in congratulating [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] on their promotions. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] will assume their new duties as managers, effective September 6<sup>th</sup>.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED] began his career with the VA OIG in May 2006 as a Management Analyst in the St. Petersburg Audit Division field office (52SP). While with 52SP he participated in multiple National Audits and Reviews of the Veterans Administration, including the Audit of Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) Transition Assistance for Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom Service Members and Veterans and Review of VBA Large Retroactive Payments. In 2009, [REDACTED] helped form the Benefits Inspection Division and has successfully led and participated in completing benefits inspections and issuing high-impact reports to VA Regional Offices. Most notable are VBA's Claims Folder Storage at the VA Regional Office Winston-Salem, NC, and Review of Alleged Data Manipulation and Mismanagement at VA Regional Office Philadelphia, PA. In addition to improving benefits processing activities and Veterans Service Center operations, several of these reports resulted in Congressional hearings and received national attention in media outlets including the Daily Show with Jon Stewart and Time Magazine. Prior to joining the OIG, [REDACTED] worked in VBA as a Veterans Service Representative with responsibility for processing, managing veterans' compensation and pension benefit programs. [REDACTED] holds a Bachelor's Degree in Finance with a minor in Economics from [REDACTED], go Hawks! [REDACTED] and enjoys—remains a very passionate fan of all Pittsburgh sports teams, especially the Steelers. [REDACTED] also enjoys visiting Honeymoon Island State Park and his family in [REDACTED].

[REDACTED]

(b)(6): (b)(6) entered on duty with the VA OIG Benefits Inspection Division in April 2009. She successfully led and participated in completing benefits inspections and issuing high-impact reports to VA Regional Offices (VARO). In addition to improving benefits processing activities and Veterans Service Center operations, (b)(6) played a key role in several projects. Most notable projects included Review of the Alleged Data Manipulation at the Philadelphia VA Regional Office and Audit of VA's Quick Start Program, which resulted in a hearing with the House of Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs. She also participated in a joint project between Office of Audit and Office of Healthcare, Review of Combat Stress in Women Veterans Receiving VA Health Care and Disability Benefits, which received the Council of the Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency Award. Prior to joining the OIG management team, (b)(6) began her career with VBA in May 2000 where she worked as a Rating Veterans Service Representative at the St. Petersburg VARO. (b)(6) graduated from (b)(6) in 2000 with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance. During her time outside of the office, (b)(6) enjoys spending time with her husband, (b)(6) family and friends.

Thank you,



**Nora Stokes, Director**  
**Bay Pines Benefits Inspection Division**  
**VA Office of Inspector General**  
**Bay Pines, Florida**  
**Office: 727-395-2436**  
**Fax: 727-395-2410**